

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Additions are underlined; deletions are in ~~strikeout~~ text.

1. (Currently Amended) A hockey glove for enclosing a human wrist and hand, the hand including a dorsal side, a palm side, four fingers and one thumb having a dorsal side, an inner side, a middle phalanx, a distal phalanx and an articulation between the middle and distal phalanxes, said hockey glove including a hand-receiving portion comprising:

- (a) a palm side facing the palm side of the hand;
- (b) a dorsal side facing the dorsal side of the hand, said dorsal side of said hand-receiving portion having a padded surface;
- (c) finger sheaths receiving the four fingers of the hand; and
- (d) a thumb-receiving portion receiving the thumb of the hand, said thumb-receiving portion having a rigid thumb ~~shell~~ shell covering at least in part the dorsal side of the thumb, said rigid thumb shell having first and second shell portions that partially overlap one another, said first shell portion covering at least partially the middle phalanx of the thumb, said second shell portion covering at least partially the distal phalanx of the thumb, said first shell portion being hinged to said second shell portion.

2. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 1 wherein said first and second shell portions are hinged together near the articulation between the middle and distal phalanxes.

3. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 1 wherein said first and second shell portions comprise stopping means for preventing movement of said second shell portion beyond a predetermined point.

4. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 1 wherein a degree of overlap between said first and second shell portions varies when one of said first and second shell portions is hingedly moved relative to the other of said first and second shell portions.

5. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 4 wherein said first shell portion partially extends underneath said second shell portion.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

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8. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 1 further comprising a cuff portion surrounding the wrist, said cuff portion having a plurality of padded elements positioned around at least a portion of the circumference of said cuff portion and defining a peripheral forearm protector, each said padded element partially overlapping an adjacent padded element.

9. (Original) A hockey glove for enclosing a human wrist and hand, the hand including a dorsal side, a palm side, four fingers and one thumb having a dorsal side, an inner side, a middle phalanx, a distal phalanx and an articulation between the middle and distal phalanxes, said hockey glove comprising:

(a) a cuff portion surrounding the wrist;

(b) a hand-receiving portion having a thumb-receiving portion receiving the thumb of the hand, said thumb-receiving portion having a rigid thumb shell covering at least in part the dorsal side of the thumb, said rigid thumb shell having first and second shell portions that partially overlap one another;

(c) a first movable joint between said cuff portion and said first shell portion;
and

(d) a second movable joint between said first and second shell portions.

10. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 9 wherein said first and second shell portions are hinged together near the articulation between the middle and distal phalanxes.

11. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 9 wherein said first and second shell portions comprise stopping means for preventing movement of said second shell portion beyond a predetermined point.

12. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 9 wherein a degree of overlap between said first and second shell portions varies when one of said first and second shell portions is hingedly moved relative to the other of said first and second shell portions.

13. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 12 wherein said first shell portion partially extends underneath said second shell portion.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 9 wherein said cuff portion comprises a plurality of padded elements positioned around at least a portion of the

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circumference of said cuff portion and defining a peripheral forearm protector, each said padded element partially overlapping an adjacent padded element.

17. (New) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 1, wherein each of the finger sheaths receiving the font fingers of the hand comprise a plurality of thick foam segments disposed on the dorsal side of the finger sheath.

18. (New) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 17, characterized in that only the thumb-receiving portion comprises a plurality of hinged rigid shell portions, and none of the remaining finger sheaths includes a plurality of hinged rigid shell portions.

19. (New) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 18, wherein the first shell portion is elongate and comprises first and second ends, a top portion, and side portions depending from the top portion, and the top and side portions each extend the entire distance between and terminate at the ends.

20. (New) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 19, wherein a first opening of the first shell portion is defined at the first end and has a first opening center axis, and a second opening of the first shell is defined at the second end and has a second opening center axis, and the first opening center axis is not parallel to the second opening center axis.